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CIA FINDINGS on the Pan Am hijacking stir an intelligence dispute.

A CIA report concludes that the evidence strongly suggests that a Palestinian group headed by terrorist Abu Nidal hijacked the plane in Pakistan. The report found no evidence that Libya sponsored the attack. But officials at the Pentagon, the White House and elsewhere contend that the CIA has rushed to judgment with inadequate data.

Some strategists worry that the report could put pressure on Reagan to retaliate against an elusive target. Others fear that it may slow the search for a Libyan, or Syrian, connection. "It is too soon to be narrowing our options," says one official. But another notes that intelligence agencies are under "a lot of pressure to come up with something" on the hijacking.

